

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 80

Senator Santana, Bullock and Horn offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the United States Congress to increase
2 funding for sickle cell disease research.

3 Whereas, Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a disabling inherited
4 blood disorder that causes the production of abnormally shaped
5 (sickled) red blood cells that can stick together and block the
6 flow of blood and oxygen. SCD leads to severe medical problems,
7 including unpredictable episodes of excruciating pain, organ
8 damage, anemia, increased susceptibility to infection, stroke, and
9 decreased life span; and

10 Whereas, SCD poses a serious threat to public health. SCD
11 affects approximately 100,000 individuals in the United States,
12 including 1,000 babies born each year. The disease

1 disproportionately impacts people of African, Middle Eastern, and
2 South American descent. In 2016, there were approximately 134,000
3 hospital inpatient stays and nearly 250,000 emergency department
4 visits related to SCD, both leading to increased medical costs; and

5 Whereas, There is no universal cure for SCD. Stem cell
6 transplantation is currently the only cure, and it is not
7 necessarily appropriate for all SCD patients. There have been
8 advancements in treating the complications of SCD, but more
9 research is needed to study emerging treatments, including
10 therapies to address the underlying cause of the disease; and

11 Whereas, SCD research is underfunded compared to other rare
12 inherited diseases, such as cystic fibrosis. Additional funding for
13 SCD research is imperative to identify new treatments and cures to
14 help patients with SCD and address the public health risks posed by
15 the disease; now, therefore, be it

16 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the United States
17 Congress to increase funding for sickle cell disease research; and
18 be it further

19 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
20 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
21 States House of Representatives, and members of the Michigan
22 congressional delegation.